

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of June 28, 2005, claims 1, 7, 11 17, 22, 23 and 28 have been amended in a manner which is believed to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicant regards as their invention and in a manner which is believed to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art. Claims 6, 16 and 27 have been cancelled.

Referring now to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Official Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13-16, 18-26 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as anticipated in view of US patent 6,437,973, Helot et al (hereinafter Helot). Helot is relied upon by the Examiner as showing a hinge body component (42, 52) and further having a flexible electrical conductor means (168) for connecting the electronic components included by two different casing parts (22 and 28). The Examiner goes on to state that the hinge body component provides two pivot axes which are separated at a predefined distance so that a total pivot angle for folding the two casing parts results from summation of the individual pivot axes and further wherein the hinge body component provides a passage for accepting the flexible electrical conductor means.

Claim 1 has been amended to further point out and claim that the hinge body component of the present invention due to its relationship with the remaining components of the hinge mechanism is fixed relative to the casing parts of the electronic device. Claim 1 has further been amended to point out that this fixed relationship of the hinge body component to the two casing parts of the electronic device is accomplished by the hinge body component having a first end and a second end and that the first and second ends of the hinge body component are pivotally engaged by respective first and second brackets which respectively also attach to the first casing part and the second casing part. Support for this amendment to claim and corresponding amendments to claims 11 and 23 are found in the figures of the present application and corresponding description. The unitary nature of the hinge body component is clearly seen in Figures 2a, 2c and 3a-4b.

With the hinge mechanism as defined in amended claim 1, the hinge body component defines two pivot axes with the respective first and second brackets and it is solely the pivoting angles of these two pivot axes that define the total pivot angle for folding the two casing parts. It is further clear that the hinge body component maintains a fixed position relative to the two casing parts while the casing parts are pivoted relative to each other about these two pivot angles.

Helot does not disclose or suggest such a hinge mechanism. In particular, the first arm member (42) and the second arm member (52) which the Examiner equates to the claimed hinge body component, move relative to each other as well as relative to the casing parts when the casing parts are angularly pivoted relative to each other.

Furthermore, if as the Examiner argues, the first and second arm members (42 and 52) correspond to the hinge body component, then it is clear that this “hinge body component” is not unitary but in fact has two arm members that pivot relative to each other along pivot mechanism (57) (see Figure 1 of Helot). Because the hinge body component of the hinge mechanism of the present invention remains fixed relative to the casing parts, the two pivot axes also remain fixed relative to the casing parts which is clearly not the case for any of the three articulating axes shown in Helot.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the hinge mechanism defined in claim 1 is clearly distinguished over Helot. Independent electronic device claim 11 and independent hinge mechanism claim 22 have been amended in a similar manner to that set forth with regard to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, are believed to be distinguished over Helot. Since each of the independent claims of the present invention are believed to be distinguished over Helot, it is respectfully submitted that all of the dependent claims are further distinguished over Helot.

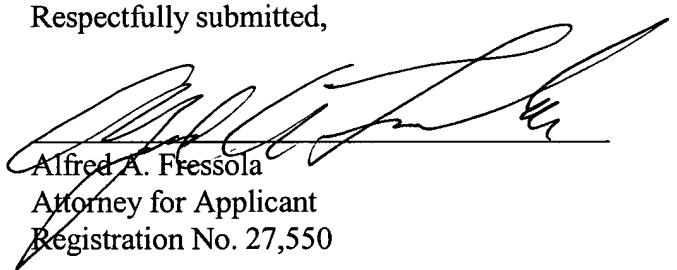
It is believed that the amendment to claims 1, 11 and 22 do not raise new issues but are directed to the hinge mechanism as clearly depicted in the originally filed drawings and specification and that further examination would not be required in order to consider these amendments.

Attorney Docket No. 915-006.023
Application Serial No. 10/660,463

Claims 6, 16 and 27 are cancelled due to the amendment of claims 1, 11 and 22 respectively.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred A. Fressola". Below the signature, there is printed text identifying the signatory.

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Dated: August 25, 2005

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